

# ANSO ZINE 2010

Photo by



Your connection to  
ANSO, the Association of  
Nordic and Pol-Balt  
LGBTQ Student  
Organizations

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# WELCOME TO ANSO!

As we all know, ANSO stands for “Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) Student Organizations.”

We may have a long name, but at least it makes people think about what we stand for!

And here are the wonderful people that make this organization possible:



**President**  
**Monika 'Micah' Grzywnowicz**  
Poland/Sweden



**Vice President**  
**Ann Kristin Fagerlund**  
Norway/Sweden



**Treasurer**  
**Pat Kulka**  
Poland



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**Board Member**  
**Anthony Holm**  
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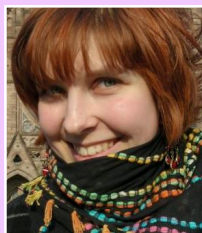
**Board Member**  
**Guðmundur Smári  
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**Board Member**  
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**Board Member**  
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**Board Member**  
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**Board Member**  
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# GENDERQUEER UNIVERSITY: QUESTIONING NORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION


**ANSO's 3rd Study Session, held on March 14-21, 2010, was an event to remember...**

Between March 14th and 21st 2010 a study session "GenderQueer University: Questioning Norms in Higher Education" took place in the European Youth Center in Strasbourg. The 34 participants represented 23 Council of Europe countries, and the event was organized by ANSO Board members

The main goals for the study session were:

- Exploring a notion of gender: gender identities, gender expressions, gender fluidity, transgender, (de)construction of gender;
- Exploring heteronormativity in higher education: existing norms according to a broader understanding of heteronorm(s), challenges and obstacles, consequences, possible solutions;
- Examining accessibility to higher education for gender variant students: inclusion, exclusion, equal treatment of students, literature used, gendered spaces, safer spaces, gender neutral toilets;
- Introducing queer pedagogy and norm-critical approach: focusing on a critical examination of the norm;
- Creating strategies of counteracting heteronormativity on personal, organizational and institutional levels as well as counteracting gender-based discrimination;
- Applying an intersectional approach to LGBTQ student activism;
- Empowering participants and enabling them to create new alli(anc)es and cooperation (with student unions, LGBTQ organizations, other student organizations and other institutions).

The main issues addressed were the concepts of (trans)gender, queer, heteronormativity, intersectionality and norm critical approach; self-awareness and self-development, and strategies for inclusion of gender variant students in higher education. In order to effectively reach as many the objectives as possible, mainly non-formal education methods were used, e.g. discussion groups, workshops, theatre sketches, simulation game, reflection groups and action groups, as well as theoretical inputs and questions in plenary. From ANSO's experiences, such methods have proven to be very efficient in acquiring 'long-term' knowledge since they demand from the participants an ongoing mental and emotional participation. The methods ask them to draw on their previous knowledge and experience, as well as connect it to the newly acquired data.



**Participants' expectations, fears and contributions**

The group comprised of

34 participants from 23 countries, 5 prep-team members (Micah Grzywnowicz, Pat Kulka, Laurynas Pliuškys, Madle Saluveer, and Malou Zilliacus) and an educational advisor from the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe (Sonia Breda). Apart from that expert lecturers were invited to join the study session to contribute their expertise to the common pool of knowledge. The guests speakers were Del LaGrace Volcano (photographer and LGBTQ activist), Josephine Wilson (performer and transgender activist), and Denis Van Der Veur (assistant of Coe Human Rights Commissioner, expert on the Issue Paper on Human Rights and Gender Identity). All experts were extremely informative, inspiring and well-regarded by the participants. One of the most powerful moments on the study session was a breath-taking performance of Josephine Wilson, who staged a story based on her life as a transgender person. Josephine became a role-model for most participants and the team members.

Furthermore the session has strengthened cooperation between student unions and LGBTQ organizations, and strengthened ANSO network within Europe.

Article by Pat Kulka

**One of the outcomes of this study session was the much anticipated ANSO Quiz!**

**The ANSO Quiz is a fun educational game of LGBTIQ facts. It was designed during ANSO study sessions in Strasbourg in 2009 and 2010. The idea was to have a simple board game that could be easily downloaded and played at various occasions – either strictly for fun or for educational purposes as well. The Quiz game will soon be available on-line so stay tuned!**



## ACTIVISM: A NEVER ENDING STORY...

**She is so busy she hardly has time to sleep. But, fortunately for us, she had just a minute at 3 am after arriving to Rome to answer our questions – Malou Zilliacus.**

### **How did you begin being involved with ANSO?**

I got an invitation letter to the study session in January 2009 through my local branch of the national LGBTQ student organization, SFQ. It seemed really cool and I thought the program seemed both complex and intriguing. So I applied and... got in! Then I was kind of stuck. The study session just awoke a lot of emotions; fight spirit, revolutionary utopias and an even stronger commitment to the movement.

### **How does it feel to be a Board**

**Member?** Being a Board Member is a bit difficult mostly because we rarely ever see each other. I feel that ANSO is doing an immensely important job, and I've been proud to be a part of it. I was lucky to be part of the prep team for the study session in Strasbourg in 2010. I learned so insanely much about organizing, constructive plan B's, improvising, holding workshops, leading discussions, giving and receiving feedback... All in all, I think I've learnt a lot working with this Board, both about myself, others and the organization as such.

### **What are you doing in your**

**organization in Sweden, SFQ?** I've been quite active in the local branch at my university in Lund, trying to make small events happen. I think the local branch could be more political! I've been to some SFQ conferences for local branches and I also was a volunteer for SFQ during Stockholm Pride 2009, which was really nice. I think that SFQ is doing loads of good things and projects. I'm impressed by the status I feel that they have in the Swedish community.

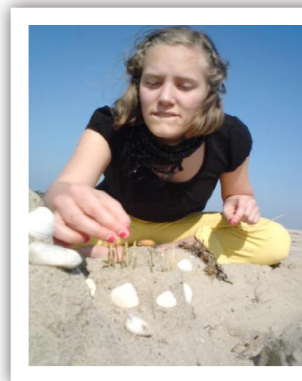
### **Why did you become an activist?**

We need to be many to overturn the heterosexist, white patriarchy. How could one NOT become an activist in days like these? I think I didn't really realize that I was an activist before somebody else called me that. Now I am a proud one, although I think that the practice is more important than the identity, one can never freeze in an activist identity.

My activism started through school student activism, where I started focusing a lot on gender equality - yet back then embarrassingly non-trans-aware. I constantly try to learn new things, refresh my views and see the norms and privileges in my own lifestyle and behavior. Me being a "woman" or non-heterosexual doesn't mean I'm not privileged as a white, middleclass, able-bodied person. How can one apply an intersectional approach to one's activism without stagnating into rhetoric's? My activism is a never-ending process, I guess. And I'm willing to go far.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

I've had a small problem with wanting to commit myself to too many things at once, resulting in never feeling that I was doing enough. I, unfortunately, don't think I'm alone with these feelings. I think it's way too common amongst amazing, hardworking, strong, and committed activists all over the world. To be able to conquer everything and start the queer feminist revolution we cannot be depressed or close to crashing into the wall. Therefore I will actually try to have a somewhat calm fall for the first time in many years. My plan for the future is not to have a calendar fully booked with meetings after meetings. I think I want to give myself some time to explore my activism in a bit more artistic ways, through theatre and performances, through reading and writing. Through sleeping enough... ;) But I'm not leaving the field, just loading my batteries. They will be needed!



### **Malou Zilliacus**

**Current location:** Malmö, Sweden

**Hometown:** Turku, Finland

**Age:** 22

**Organisation:** SFQ

**Education:** Lund University  
Gender Studies Department

**Interested in:** Feminism, bookcases (preferably well-stocked & in alphabetical order), coffee, licorice, Afrodance, theater, people, snogging, revolution



Interview by Monika Czaplicka

# ANSO AGM:

## THE SCHOOL OF DIVERSITY

Between July 18-25, ANSO is going back to its roots!

This year, BLUS (what it stands for) is organizing ANSO's Annual General Meeting and Conference, entitled "School of Diversity."

ANSO was founded in 2004 by BLUS and two other Nordic LGBTQ student organizations. Since then, our umbrella organization has grown, and we now have 11 member organizations spread out throughout over eight countries. Every summer, these 14 organizations come together for a week-long conference in order to discuss issues that are relevant for us, as LGBTQ students. This summer, BLUS will be the host of ANSO's 7th annual conference.

The conference is an international event with over 50 participants from eight different countries. The group will be working hard together from July 18th until the 25th. For this entire week, they will be living at the real life school Kastanievej Efterskole in Frederiksberg. The theme of the conference is - literally- 'School of Diversity'.

Today, many institutions of higher education are realizing the benefits of having a diverse staff and student body. Therefore, it is important for us, as members of LGBTQ student organizations, to be able to influence the process of working towards an inclusion of diversity.

But what does diversity mean for us? How do we, who represent LGBTQ issues, get the best out of this development? There will be discussions, lectures, workshops and loads of social activities.

There will also be two very interesting speakers coming from the United States:

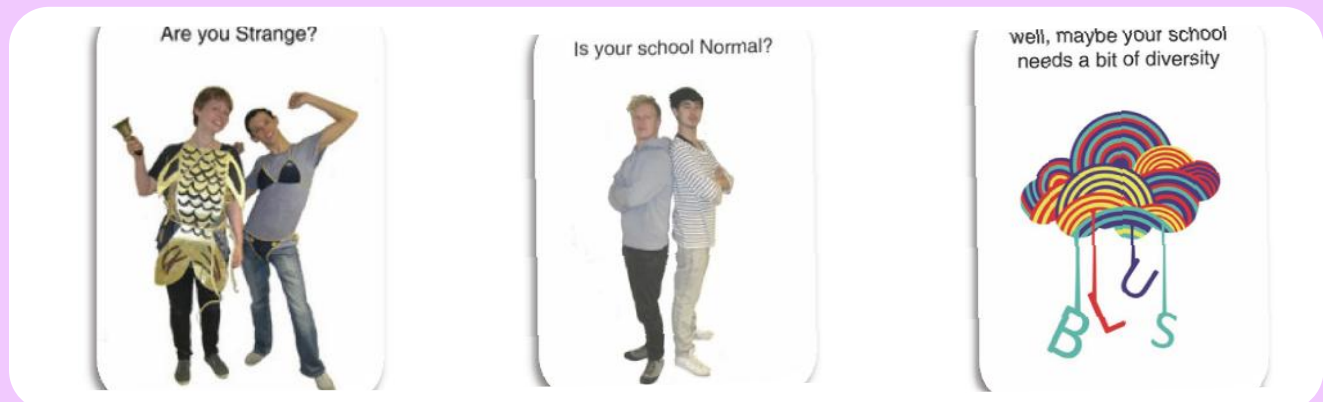
- \* Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey: she is the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. She has over three decades of experience working with student affairs. She will present us the development of student affairs in the U.S.A and will discuss with us, how it is to run a student affairs office.
- \* John-Paul Sanchez: he works to address the sociopolitical needs of LGBTQ individuals living in the United States. He sits on the Steering Committee of the Group of Diversity and Inclusion of the Association of American Medical Colleges. John-Paul has practical experience with developing projects to address LGBTQ needs in higher education, and will therefore assist us with our group work.

Two representatives of the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS), Anders Larsen, Cultural Immersion Coordinator and Heather Wallerson Krog, Project Manager, will also be with us for a few days. They will mainly be presenting what the DIS, and exchange school for American Undergraduate students in Copenhagen, is and what they do in order to support diversity.

As always, ANSO events are a great way not only to meet LGBTQ people from other countries, but also receive support, get new ideas, and find potential partners for our new projects. This event is expected to be nothing less than that: a space not only for networking, but also to empower every single one of us, and every single one of our organizations.

For more information on this event, please visit its website <http://diversity.blus.dk>

Article by Szandra Gonzalez,  
information provided by blus.dk





**Name:** Eesti Gei Noored  
(Estonian Gay Youth)

**Founded in:**  
1999

**Cities:**  
Tallinn and Tartu

**Contact:**  
[www.egn.ee](http://www.egn.ee)  
[info@egn.ee](mailto:info@egn.ee)

**Board:**  
*President:* Maret Ney  
*Vice President:* Hanna Kannelmäe  
*Board members:* Jaan Kroon,  
Madle Saluveer, Janika Saul, Martin  
Riimak, Helen Talalae, Andres  
Laidvee



## ANSO HAS GIVEN US THE CHANCE TO DREAM

**Interview with Hanna Kannelmäe, former president and current vice president of EGN -Estonian Gay Youth.**

### When did EGN come to life?

Before there was EGN, there were two little groups of people in two cities, who called themselves Tartu Gay Youth and Tallinn Gay Youth. We were coming together to plan interesting leisure time events, like literature evenings, sports or parties, for young LGBT people. In 2008, Tartu Gay Youth was founded by Ilke Jaspers, who was an exchange student in Tartu at the time. In her homeland, in Belgium, organizations creating social events for young LGBT people are very common. Soon after, I decided to get people together in Tallinn. Ilke and I were friends so she provided me with a lot of support since she had much more experience that me in this kind of organization.

### Why did EGN become an ANSO Member?

As we are an organization, which mostly has students and young people as their members, we felt the need to find out what similar organizations in other countries were doing for and with their members. Seeing the struggles, experience and goals of other organizations in ANSO has given as a chance to dream and the motivation to work towards filling those dreams.

### You are currently working on the Civil Partnership Act in Estonia. Could you give us more details?

In the autumn of 2009 the Justice Ministry of Estonia sent an open call to everyone who wanted to express their opinions in the matter of the partnership law. EGN decided not only to express our opinion

that the need for a partnership law is significant, but also we decided to let all people thinking alike to vouch for it too. So we collected almost 2000 signatures from people who wanted to support the cause.

Of course our action didn't go unnoticed. Soon a group of Christians decided to make an event "for traditional family values", which the press started calling "the hetero parade" and ironically many articles were published in daily newspapers about why the same sex partnership is necessary after all, and how it in no way goes against the idea of family values.

### What are EGN's future plans?

Our number one goal is to work on making our organization stronger and have a respected voice in the general public. As our organization is gaining members and becoming more known in the LGBT community and in Estonia in general, we are also taking up more challenges. In June 2011, the Baltic Pride will take place in Tallinn and EGN will undoubtedly have quite a large role in organizing the event. Connected to that, we would also love to establish an LGBT information center in Tallinn.

### What are your expectations regarding other ANSO organizations?

We hope our cooperation with other ANSO member organizations will strengthen as we go along. Why not create a project together for the upcoming Baltic Pride?!

### Any final words?

all those people who were interested in forming an ANSO Couchsurfing community, there is such a community on Couchsurfing.org now, called "ANSO couchsurfers" so join and let's start ANSOsurfing!

Interview by Monika Czaplicka

# ANSO IS EVERYWHERE!

During the 2009/2010 academic year, ANSO and its member organizations participated in many different events. Here are just a few of them...

## 2010 Forum on Youth LGBTQ Activism and Advocacy: Speaking up for human rights!

On May 5-8, the Human RightS Initiative (HRSI) organized a Forum in Budapest, Hungary, focusing on giving the participants specific tools to develop their day-to-day activism. All kinds of non-formal education methods were used at this event, from panel discussions, to thematic workshops, to photo exhibits, to an action in support of the Baltic Pride and everything in between. The 30+ participants celebrated their Forum “graduation” with a “Sailors and Pirates” Boat Party on the danube.

ANSO was one of the partner organizations at the Forum, and was through the participation of Stine Anderson of UgleZ. <http://hrsi.ceu.hu>



## 2010 Baltic Pride

The Baltic Pride is the Pride festival organized by LGBT organizations from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Three out of its four organizers (Estonian Gay Youth, Lithuanian Gay League and Tolerant Youth Association) are ANSO members.

The 2010 Baltic Pride March, after overcoming endless obstacles, finally took place on Saturday, May 8th, in Vilnius, Lithuania. The event received extensive media coverage both locally and internationally and is considered to have been a very “successful event” by its organizers, with over 500 people marching.

The 2011 Baltic Pride is scheduled to take place in Tallinn, Estonia. The specific dates of the event are yet to be determined. [www.balticpride.eu](http://www.balticpride.eu)

## 2010 EuroPride

The 2010 EuroPride took place in Warsaw, between the 9th and the 18th of July. It was the first time that a EuroPride ever took place in Eastern Europe. The week and a half event had all kinds of activities, such as workshops, photo exhibits, film screenings and concerts.

Amongst the main organizers was one of ANSO's member organizations: Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH), who was in charge of the very successful Pride House.

On Saturday, July 17th, the march took place with approximately 10,000 people walking in the main streets of the Polish capital. Not even the heat and the few protesters took away the festive feeling of this long journey, where many ANSO organizations were present, such as Tolerant Youth Association (TJA, see picture), Trans-Fuzja, BLUS, and of course, KPH with its own truck! The 2011 EuroPride will be held in Rome. <http://europride2010.eu>



Forum and EuroPride pictures by Szandra Gonzalez. Baltic Pride picture by TJA. Text written by Szandra Gonzalez, with information from [www.balticpride.eu](http://www.balticpride.eu) and <http://europride2010.eu>

# ANSO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The organization currently has 14 members! Here you can find short bios of everyone :)



**BLUS** is an organization ran for and by LGBT students in and around Copenhagen. They organize parties, debates, excursions, movie nights and a lot of other fun stuff. Every Tuesday they host a café at the Copenhagen University Student House. They have approximately 200 members on their mailing list who are active and attend their events. BLUS has recently started an international committee whose aim is to focus on working with ANSO and IGLYO, by getting more people involved with international work. [www.blus.dk](http://www.blus.dk)

**BLUS**  
(Denmark)

**EGN**  
(Estonia)

**Estonian Gay Youth** is the only youth organization dealing with LGBTQ issues in Estonia. Founded in 2008, it is an active youth group that aims to connect the gay community in Estonia, including bisexuals and trans people. They stand for a free and tolerant society where everyone has a possibility to get a job, start a family and in case of problems depend on the government – regardless of his/her/hir sexuality. They organize regular events, such as documentary nights, parties and sports activities, in order to bring people together. [www.egn.ee](http://www.egn.ee)



**Friðarbogin** is the first and only organization working with LGBT rights in the Faroe Islands. It was founded on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003. They aim to work for political, cultural and social liberation of LGBT in the Faroe Islands. They have been working very closely with ANSO, mainly with the organization of the first Pride in their territory, in August 2005. [www.fridarbogin.com](http://www.fridarbogin.com)

**Friðarbogin**  
(Faroe Islands)

**Homoglobiini**  
(Finland)

**Homoglobiini** was founded in 1990 by students in Finland. This student organization has approximately 50 members, and meets twice a month. They organize festivals, lectures and parties, as well as trips all around Finland. [www.homoglobiini.fi](http://www.homoglobiini.fi)



**Opiskelijavinokkaat Ovi ry** was established in 2002 and is a member of the Student Union at the University of Helsinki. The purpose of the organization is to work as a peer group and a supporting network of LGBT students, and to work in favor of the human rights of such individuals. OVI arranges meetings, excursions, educational and relevant publications. OVI is also a member organization of SETA, the national organization for sexual equality in Finland. OVI is the biggest student LGBT group in Finland. <http://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/>

**OVI**  
(Finland)

# ANSO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

And the bios continue...



**Telehpy** is the group for gay and lesbian students at Helsinki University of Technology (HUT). They have approximately 40 members and their aims are: to unite the gay, lesbian and bisexual students at HUT, to work against intolerance, and to spread information about sexual minorities. They focus mainly on providing a social space for people to get to know each other and spend time together, by organizing social events, movie nights, game nights, etc.

[www.telehpy.tkv.fi](http://www.telehpy.tkv.fi)

**Telehpy  
(Finland)**

**Q  
(Iceland)**

The **Organization for Queer Students in Iceland** was founded in 1999 by students at the University of Iceland. Since then, the organization has rapidly grown and is now open to all LGBTQ students, as well as all people aged between 18 and 30. The organization has three departments: the international, the social and the department for education. Q is a social forum for queer students in Iceland, holding Q-days every Fridays. Q works with various organizations, such as Reykjavik Gay Pride committee, Reykjavik Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and ANSO.

[www.queer.is](http://www.queer.is)



The **Tolerant Youth Association** is a youth organization dedicated to protecting human rights in Lithuania. Founded in 2005, TJA already has 10 branches in several districts in Lithuania. Their main objectives are to combat discrimination including discrimination against LGBT people, as well as seek equality for everyone. This organization works to influence Lithuanian institutions to support LGBT youth and improve their lives. They write educational articles, organize camps, film screenings, discussions and reactions to events associated with human rights. Their vision is to have a tolerant youth in a tolerant society.

[www.tja.lt](http://www.tja.lt)

**TJA  
(Lithuania)**

**LGL  
(Lithuania)**

The **Lithuanian Gay League** is a national non-profit, non-governmental organization uniting LGBT people. Their values and principles are respect and diversity, equal opportunities for participation in organization activities, voluntary participation and transparency. They follow the vision to create a respectful, open and inclusive Lithuanian society free of discriminatory homophobic attitudes.

[www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)



**UgleZ** is a student organization in Bergen. This organization is a network for queer people, those who are not "out of the closet" yet, and for those who are still questioning their sexuality or gender identity and/or expression and would like a way into the LGBTQ community. UgleZ has biweekly meetings and social gatherings, queer movie nights and other social events, in order to create a safe space for LGBTQ students. With over 50 members, this organization also have events of academic and activism character, aimed at educating and broadening the minds of their target group, as well as the rest of the local community's.

[www.uglez.wordpress.com](http://www.uglez.wordpress.com)

**UgleZ  
(Norway)**

# ANSO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

## And our final group...

Skeivt Forum or Queer Forum, is a student organization based at the University of Oslo and was founded in 2006. Their aim is to create a safe space for students who wish to engage in activism of any kind, or who just want to enjoy the company of other LGBTQ students. They focus on seminars, panel debates focusing on a wide range of topics such as living with HIV to the cinematic portrayal of trans people, quiz nights, parties and other social events.

[www.uio.no/studentliv/studentforeninger/hobby/skeiv.html](http://www.uio.no/studentliv/studentforeninger/hobby/skeiv.html)



Skeivt  
Forum  
(Norway)

KPH  
(Poland)



**Campaign Against Homophobia** is an LGBTQ NGO operating throughout Poland. Founded in 2001, their main goals are to publicize discussions regarding sexual minorities, shaping tolerant attitudes towards non-heterosexual people and removing prejudices and stereotypes concerning them, promoting awareness of sexual and gender identification, and abolishing regulations discriminating against sexual orientation in the Polish legal system. KPH provides legal and psychological advises, education in schools; publishes awareness-raising materials, promotes non-heteronormative culture and political lobbying amongst others.

[www.kph.org.pl](http://www.kph.org.pl)



Trans-Fuzja was established in 2007 as an informal group of trans and cisgendered activists from the Wrocław University. The organization plays a major role in educating students (especially those from the medical, psychological and sociological faculties). They also provide help for transgender students who feel that their basic human rights are not accepted. Apart from providing education on transgender and queer studies (by organizing additional classes, conferences, workshops and lectures) along with the Gender-Queer Study Group at the University of Warsaw and the "Nothing the Same" Study Group at the University of Wrocław, they also cooperate with youth and students groups from Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH), the Lambda Association and the feminist UFA collective.

<http://transfuzja.org/>

Trans-  
Fuzja  
(Poland)

SFQ  
(Sweden)

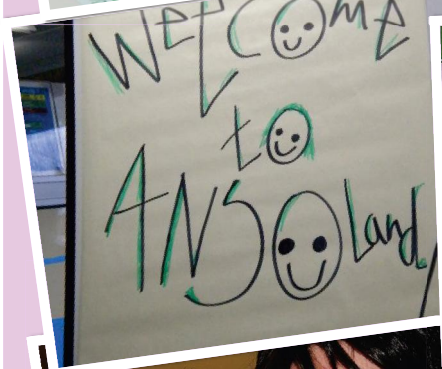
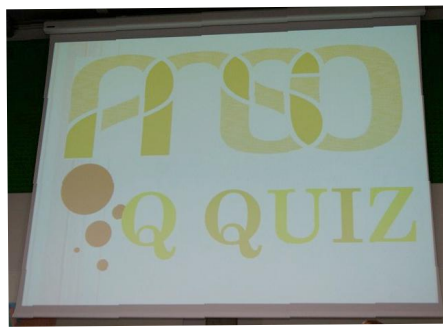
The **Swedish Federation of LGBTQ Student Organizations** (Sveriges Förenade HBTG-studenter, SFQ) is a federation for local LGBTQ student organizations at universities and university colleges in Sweden. Today, SFQ has 18 member organizations, from Malmö in the south to Piteå up north. The main goal of SFQ is to improve the situation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students at Swedish Universities and university colleges.

[www.hbtqstudenterna.se](http://www.hbtqstudenterna.se)



# ANSO SCRAPBOOK

ANSO MOMENTS TO REMEMBER FROM 2010



Photos by Szandra Gonzalez, Ann Kristian Fagerlund and BLUS

# ANSO IS NOW PART OF ESU!

## AS OF 2010, WE ARE NOW PART OF THE EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION

The European Students' Union (ESU) is an umbrella organization of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 37 countries. The NUSes are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or social standing. Our members are also student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles.

The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO.

Through its members, ESU represents over 11 million students in Europe.

The organization works to bring together, resource, train and inform national student representatives on policy developments in higher education at the European level. Since decisions concerning higher education are increasingly taken at the European level, ESU's role as the only European-wide student platform is similarly growing. Their work centers around supporting their members through organizing seminars, training, campaigns and conferences relevant to students, conducting European-wide research, partnership projects and campaigns, providing information services and producing a variety of publications for both students, policy-makers and higher education professionals.

Information provided by [www.esib.org](http://www.esib.org)

Layout by Szandra Gonzalez, content by Monika 'Micah' Grzywnowicz

## WE ARE MEMBERS OF



## WE ARE SUPPORTED BY



[www.anso.dk](http://www.anso.dk)